

INCOMING TELEGRAM *(i)* Department of State

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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 224, AUGUST 17, 1 AM

PR ORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 224, BONN PRIORITY 197, INFORMATION LONDON 133, PARIS 139, MOSCOW 108, POLAD USAREUR 123.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO. STOCESSEL, AND MCGUIRE.

FOLLOWING IS ROUNOLF BERLIN SITUATION AUG 16:

1. EAST BERLIN: MORE PERMANENT BARRIERS IN FORM OF CONCRETE BUILDING SLABS, WALLS, BARBED WIRE, AND WIRE FENCES OBSERVED AT OR NEAR NUMEROUS RECENTLY CLOSED CROSSING POINTS. ROLLS OF BARBED WIRE CLOSED OFF APPROACHES TO BRANDENBURG GATE 50 YARDS WEST OF GATE; I.E., AT EAST-WEST SECTOR BOUNDARY LINE. QUICK PASSAGE THROUGH REMAINING OPEN ENTRY POINTS INTO EAST SECTOR NOW HINDERED BY LOW CONCRETE BARRIERS WHICH REQUIRE DRIVER TO SNAKE WAY THROUGH AND BY STOP SIGNS AT BOTH SIDES OF BARRIERS. DISPOSITION SOVZONE SECURITY FORCES NEAR BRANDENBURG GATE SMALLER THAN YESTERDAY. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL WATER THROWERS AND LIGHT ARMORED VEHICLES STILL POSITIONED AT OR NEAR GATE. TWO PLATOONS OF TANKS AND FIVE ARMORED TROOP CARRIERS STILL AT SAME PLACES IN CENTER OF CITY. NUMBER OF KAMPTGRUPPEN LESS THAN YESTERDAY THOUGH SPORADIC PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS STILL TAKING PLACE AND ARMORED VEHICLES IN EVIDENCE. REGIME MAKING APPARENT EFFORT GIVE IMPRESSION OF NORMALCY WHILE LETTING IT BE KNOWN THAT RESERVE MILITARY POWER AVAILABLE. VERY FEW WEST BERLIN LICENSED VEHICLES SEEN IN EAST BERLIN.

REFUGEES: REGISTRATION CENTER MAR ENFELDE REPORTS THIRTY REFUGEES CROSSED INTO WEST BERLIN YESTERDAY. TWO VOPO DEFECTORS REPORTED.

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-2- 224, AUGUST 17, 1 AM FROM BERLIN

REPORTED BY WEST BERLIN POLICE.

3. WEST BERLIN: MAIN EVENT TODAY WAS WEST BERLIN PROTEST RALLY CALLED BY SENAT AND GIVEN GREAT PUBLICITY MORNING PRESS. HUGE CROWD ESTIMATED AT MORE THAN 200,000 GATHERED IN CITY HALL SQUARE AND APPROACHING STREETS DESPITE BAD WEATHER TO HEAR SPEECHES BY MAYORS BRANDT AND AMREHN. GOVMAYOR'S HOUR-LONG ADDRESS REPRESENTED SKILLFUL BLEND, CONDEMNING COMMUNIST MOVES, URGING ALLIES AND FEDREP TAKE POSITIVE ACTION, AND EXHORTING BERLINERS TO KEEP THEIR HEADS. BRANDT USED SLIM AMMUNITION OF POSITIVE NEWS TO MAXIMUM PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT. HIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF SENAT MEASURES (DEPT 220, BONN 193) REFERENCE TO BERLIN VISIT TODAY OF GENERAL BRUCE CLARKE, CINCUSAREUR AND TO IMPENDING ARRIVALS THREE AMBASSADORS EVOKED ROARS OF APPROVAL. MENTION OF COMMANDANTS' PROTEST LETTER, ON OTHER HAND, GREETED WITH GREAT HOWL OF DERISION; SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT THAT PROTEST LETTER ONLY FIRST WARNING TO EAST RECEIVED WITH EXPRESSIONS OF CYNICISM.

THRONG FILLED CITY HALL SQUARE AND SPILLED OVER INTO ALL SIDE STREETS WELL AHEAD OF TIME RALLY WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN. CROWD ORDERLY BUT AGITATED AND IN ANGRY MOOD, OBVIOUSLY EAGER TO LEARN OF CONCRETE ACTION GOING BEYOND PROTESTS. PREVAILING CROWD SENTIMENT BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER RALLY WAS CYNICAL AND PESSIMISTIC: I.E., EAST SECTOR BEING WRITTEN OFF; EFFECTIVE WESTERN COUNTER-MEASURES OUT OF QUESTION; GROUPS ALSO OVERHEARD TO SAY COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER OF WEST BERLIN ONLY MATTER OF TIME. MISSION OFFICERS MINGLING WITH CROWD LEFT RALLY WITH FEELING THAT BERLINERS HAD LOST PART OF THEIR FAITH IN ABILITY OF FREE WORLD TO HELP PRESERVE THEIR FREEDOM. SKEPTICISM BORDERING ON HOSTILITY TOWARD WESTERN POWERS AND FEDREP MANIFESTED BY SHOUTS, REMARKS, AND MAJORITY OF SIGNS HELD ALOFT IN CROWD, PREVAILING THEME OF WHICH WAS FAILURE OF WEST TO ACT. ("PAPER NEVER STOPPED A TANK; KENNEDY TO BERLIN; NO TALKING—ACTION; BETRAYED BY WEST?")

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-3- 224, AUGUST 17, 1 AM FROM BERLIN

SMALLER NUMBER OF SIGNS ATTACKED SOVZONE REGIME, WHILE A FEW ADVERTISED TIME-WORN SLOGANS RE GERMAN UNITY AND SELF-DETERMINATION. NEVERTHELESS, SPEAKERS ACHIEVED AT LEAST PART OF THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL OBJECTIVE. CROWD GIVEN FEELING THAT SOME MEASURES BEING TAKEN AND GREATER ACTION BEING PREPARED BEHIND SCENES. WHILE UNQUESTIONABLY STILL UNSATISFIED AND DISAPPOINTED (MAINLY DUE TO REALIZATION THAT LITTLE COULD BE DONE DIRECTLY TO ALTER SITUATION IN SOVSECTOR), PEOPLE WERE PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY TIRED AFTER LONG RALLY AND NOT DISPOSED TOWARD ANY RASH ACTIONS; CROWD DISPERSED QUICKLY AND IN ORDERLY FASHION, WITHOUT INCIDENTS.

EARLIER IN AFTERNOON, CROWD AT CITY HALL LOUDLY CHEERED GENERAL CLARKE, WHEN, ACCOMPANIED BY US COMMANDANT, DEPUTY COMMANDANT, AND CG BERLIN COMMAND, HE PAID AFTERNOON CALL ON BRANDT FOLLOWING WHICH GOVMAYOR TOOK HIM ON SECTOR BORDER INSPECTION TRIP. BRANDT APPARENTLY PLEASED WITH OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY HIGHEST-LEVEL US MILITARY PRESENCE. CAVALCADE OF CARS RECEIVED EXTRAORDINARY COVERAGE BY REPORTERS, CAMERAMEN. IN CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL CLARKE, BRANDT NOTED CONCERN RE CERTAIN TENDENCIES TOWARD ALARM AND PESSIMISM AMONG POPULATION AND INQUIRED WHETHER CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO INCREASE US GARRISON, STRESSING THAT EVEN TOKEN INCREASE WOULD HAVE BENEFICIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS. BRANDT ALSO EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN FAVOR OF RELATIVELY CONSPICUOUS ALERT EXERCISES WHENEVER SCHEDULED.

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